

Testimony to the Appropriations Committee

February 27, 2015

The Connection

Supportive Housing for Families Program

Jessica R.

First, I want to say thank you for all the hard work you do and for this opportunity to share my story.

Hi, my name is Jessica and I started with the Supportive Housing for Families program on August 27, 2012. I'm 29 years old and I have a 1 year old son and a 5 year old daughter. I also have another daughter who is 7 years old and lives with her grandparents. Even though she does not live with me, we visit often.

I was adopted by my foster parent when I was six months old and when I was 14, I was sent back to live with my biological my mother along with my siblings. However, my biological mother was on drugs and living with my adoptive mother was difficult as they were nine in the house. I returned to once again live with my adoptive mother who taught me how to cook, clean and take care of myself.

In 2011, DCF became involved in my life as I was not supervising my daughter and she was removed from my care.

When I started working with the Supportive Housing for Families program, I was struggling to maintain my housing and my sobriety. I was diagnosed with Depression, OCD and Bipolar disorder. At the time, I was using marijuana and PCP and decided to enter a substance abuse treatment program which I completed in January of 2012; in May of 2012, I was reunified with my daughter. I am proud to say that I am clean and sober to this day.

I started taking classes at Capitol Community College in September 2014 to become a Social Services worker and I'm also working at a Home Goods warehouse. I am very grateful to the Supportive Housing for Families program which has given me the opportunity to have my own apartment, have both my daughter and my son with me, and to help me work towards becoming independent.

In closing, I would ask that if you can see your way towards funding additional RAPs, it's a program that really works. It has helped so many families and I believe it's worth making sure it continues to help other families in need.

Thank you.

